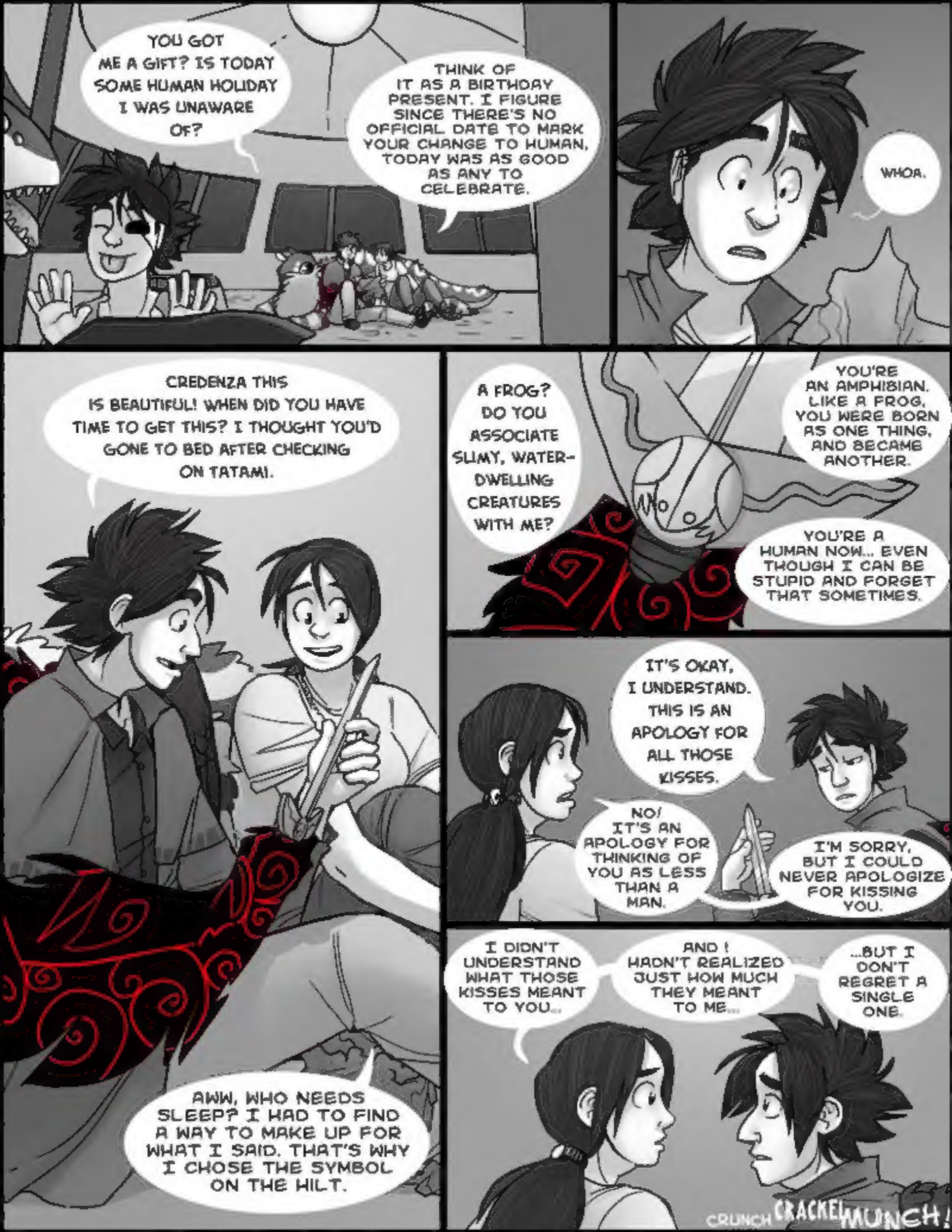
IT'S OKAY, CHARLIE. I DON'T GET TO GO ON THIS TRIP EITHER. YOU KNOW KOR.
EVERY NOW AND THEN HE'LL FIND SOME NEW ADVENTURE...
...BUT HE ALWAYS COMES HOME WHEN THE WEATHER TURNS COLD.
I'LL HAVE MY HANDS FULL TRYING TO HELP SORT OUT THE THEATER, NOW THAT VANJI'S GONE. WE'D BETTER GET SOME REST WHILE WE CAN, RIGHT BIG BOY?
CHARLIE?!
SPLASH!
CHARLIE!

scrtch
skritch
THUMP!

Well, I couldn't leave him out there! And not just because I felt sorry for him!
If he's set his mind on coming with us, he'd have torn the sub apart to get inside.
VVRRRVR
RRRVVV
VVVVRRV
SO, YOU COULDN'T JUST SWAT HIM WITH A NEWSPAPER AND TELL HIM TO GO HOME?
WOK WOK WOK!
It's like the joke: "Where does a three-hundred pound manticore sit?" "Anywhere it wants." Charlie's naturally well-behaved, but I can't make him do anything he doesn't already want to do.
I'm afraid you have one extra crew member along for the ride, Miss Black.
SIGH WELL, LOOK AT IT THIS WAY.
IN A CREW OF SHARKMEN, ROYAL GUARDS, AND HALF-FORMED SPIRITS, A BIG FLUFFY MONSTER WILL HAVE NO TROUBLE FITTING IN.
VMMMMMM!

NO NO NO! THIS IS ALL WRONG! WHY AM I EVEN BOTHERING WITH THIS?!
YOU ARE THE WORST PILE OF CHERT AND WIRE I'VE EVER HAD THE MISFORTUNE OF MAKING!
YOU'RE AN EMBARRASSMENT! A DISGRACE!
JUST ONE HUGE WASTE OF TIME!
CRASH
SIGH IT WAS AN IDIOTIC PLAN FROM THE START.
THAT WOMAN LIKES PEOPLE AND ANIMALS AND PLANTS AND THINGS FULL OF LIFE!
SHE COULD NEVER BE IMPRESSED BY A COLD, INCOMPLETE TOY LIKE YOU.
CRACKLE!

AVEN
Meet me on the observation deck.
-C
YAWN
YOU WANTED TO SEE ME?
RAVEN! YOU'RE HERE!
I MEAN, OF COURSE YOU'RE HERE! I LEFT YOU THAT NOTE AND ALL!
HEH, KIND OF SILLY FOR ME TO BE SURPRISED BY YOU, SINCE I INVITED YOU AND ALL...
REALLY, I PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE JUST KNOCKED AND ASKED TO TALK TO YOU...
...BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE BUSY AND IT JUST DIDN'T SEEM...
...BUT WHAT I WANTED TO SAY... WELL I DIDN'T... I THINK... YOU SEE...
I'MREALLY SORRYSOIGOT THISFORYOU!
THUMP!


YOU GOT ME A GIFT? IS TODAY SOME HUMAN HOLIDAY I WAS UNAWARE OF?
THINK OF IT AS A BIRTHDAY PRESENT. I FIGURE SINCE THERE'S NO OFFICIAL DATE TO MARK YOUR CHANGE TO HUMAN, TODAY WAS AS GOOD AS ANY TO CELEBRATE.
WHOA.
CREDENZA THIS IS BEAUTIFUL! WHEN DID YOU HAVE TIME TO GET THIS? I THOUGHT YOU'D GONE TO BED AFTER CHECKING ON TATAMI.
AWW, WHO NEEDS SLEEP? I HAD TO FIND A WAY TO MAKE UP FOR WHAT I SAID. THAT'S WHY I CHOSE THE SYMBOL ON THE HILT.
A FROG? DO YOU ASSOCIATE SLIMY, WATER-DWELLING CREATURES WITH ME?
YOU'RE AN AMPHIBIAN. LIKE A FROG, YOU WERE BORN AS ONE THING, AND BECAME ANOTHER.
YOU'RE A HUMAN NOW... EVEN THOUGH I CAN BE STUPID AND FORGET THAT SOMETIMES.
IT'S OKAY, I UNDERSTAND. THIS IS AN APOLOGY FOR ALL THOSE KISSES.
NO! IT'S AN APOLOGY FOR THINKING OF YOU AS LESS THAN A MAN.
I'M SORRY, BUT I COULD NEVER APOLOGIZE FOR KISSING YOU.
I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THOSE KISSES MEANT TO YOU...
AND I HADN'T REALIZED JUST HOW MUCH THEY MEANT TO ME...
...BUT I DON'T REGRET A SINGLE ONE.
CRUNCH
CRACKLE
MUNCH!

MUNCH CRUNCH MNCH!
WHOA! WHOA! GET THAT OUT OF YOUR MOUTH!
CREDENZA! RAVEN! COME HERE, YOU'VE GOT TO SEE THIS!
WHAT IS IT, TUFF?
CAN WE TALK DOWN HERE? I DON'T KNOW IF BLITZ SHOULD HEAR THIS RIGHT NOW.
BLITZ'S OLD NAME WAS ANTHONY SOLAIR, RIGHT?
YEAH.
WELL, I'VE BEEN TRYING TO LEARN ABOUT THIS HEIR WE'RE GOING AFTER, SO I WAS LOOKING THROUGH THE BOOK WHEN I FOUND A FAMILIAR NAME! ANTHONY SOLAIR!
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A MISTAKE, BUT ALL THE CLUES POINT TO IT BEING BLITZ!
WAIT A MINUTE! ARE YOU SAYING THAT ALL THIS TIME BLITZ WAS ONE OF THE HEIRS?!
NO! BLITZ IS ONLY PART OF THE FAMILY LINE!
THE HEIR IS HIS DAUGHTER!

PUFF
swueaka squika
TO BE CONTINUED...